

the center of gravity 80 of stage 28, and Y magnet 62 all have the same Z position.

Positioning actuator component 70, the center of gravity 82 of guide bar 55, the center of gravity 80 of stage 28, and Y magnet 62 in plane P ensures that the forces exerted and applied on guide bar 55 in the Y direction by stage 28 and actuator component 70 produce no torque around the X axis.

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REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to correct an inadvertent error of a typographical nature. This amendment does not introduce any new matter to the specification. Regarding claims, Applicant makes no amendment. Claims 1-28 are currently pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 18, 20, 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebihara (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,542) in view of Watson (U.S. Patent No. 5,959,427) and rejected claims 3, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebihara in view of Watson and further in view of Yuan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,517).

Before addressing the merits of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify the status of claim 17. Although the Office Action Summary indicated that claim 17 was rejected, the body of the Office Action did not elaborate on the basis of the rejection. To make the record clear,

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